

STATES OF CLAY

Good for forming



Ⓐ **Wet Clay** - This state of the clay is very moist and soft. It can be torn into a handful of pieces and easily smashed back together. It should stick together easily without needing any slipping or scoring.

ⓑ **Soft Leather Hard** - Clay in this state is firm but still very flexible and plastic, although no longer wet. It will retain a shape as long as you handle with care, yet soft enough to take on impressions from your hands or other objects. Attachments will most likely require a small amount of scoring and a bit of slip or water.



ⓒ **Leather Hard** - Once clay is leather hard it will support weight without losing its shape. It still bends slightly, but there is very little flexibility. You'll have to score and slip attachments well.



ⓓ **Bone Dry** - once all the physical water leaves the clay, it is considered bone dry. Clay becomes fragile and has a chocolate-like texture. This is not a state in which you want to work on your piece. However, some decorative processes are done at this state. Must be bone dry before it can go into kiln for bisque fire.

